

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice December 8, 2006

The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice met Friday, December 8, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Nebraska State Office Bldg, Lincoln, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was published November 20, 2006 in the Lincoln Journal Star.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Tom McBride, Chair of the NCJJ.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Michael Behm, Linda Benjamin, Christopher Connolly, Lawrence Gendler, Kim Hawekotte, Kylee Hoffmaster (arrived 10:10), Ron Johns, Tom McBride, T.J. McDowell, Elaine Menzel, Mark Montgomery, Gerard Piccolo, Tanya Terry, Kent Turnbull, and Jerry Watson. **Members excused:** James Blue, Charles Brewster, Austin Brockmeier, Ellen Brokofsky, John Clark, Audra Liebig, Kay McMinn, Kathy Moore, Tim O'Dea, Danielle Reinke, and Reggie Ryder. **Members absent:** Andee Hardesty, Justin Mickles, and Todd Reckling. **Staff present:** Chris Harrifeld, Monica Miles-Steffens, Nancy Steeves, and Stephanie Vensky.

III. Approval of September 15, 2006 Minutes

Motion

A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by Piccolo to approve the September 15, 2006 meeting minutes. (Motion carried unanimously.)

IV. Crime Commission Report

a. Title II/Juvenile Services Grant Announcement – October 30, 2006

Miles-Steffens reported the Title II/Juvenile Services grant application is available and she conducted a grant application workshop for those interested in applying. The applications are due January 12th.

Hawekotte asked what the total amount available for Title II. Miles-Steffens said there is \$510,000 available, which is approximately \$200,000 less than last year.

b. Report on Juvenile Diversion Meeting – October 26, 2006

Miles-Steffens reported a second Juvenile Diversion Coordinators meeting was held on October 26th. She stated they would be working with Petra Smith at Cedars to put out a diversion news letter in January.

She stated the first round of juvenile diversion data collection, which is a requirement, has been completed by Hank Robinson of the Juvenile Justice Institute at UNO. A copy of the report was provided and she noted it would be posted to the Crime Commission website.

c. Report on OJJDP site visit

Miles-Steffens reported the new OJJDP representative, Linda Rosen, was here in October. The Platte County Diversion program, Omaha JABG and Juvenile Assessment Center and Lancaster County Detention Center were several of the programs they visited. Linda was very complimentary of our process and there were no major findings from the site visit.

Miles-Steffens stated Linda Rosen would be returning in April for an intensive Compliance Monitoring visit.

d. Report on local site visits

Miles-Steffens reported she has been doing a number of site visits and working with some of the County Aid programs to get them up and running.

The County Aid grants will be announced January 3rd and will be due February 26th and go before the Crime Commission in May so there will be no gap in funding.

Miles-Steffens announced next years meeting dates were provided in the mail-out so everyone can mark their calendars.

V. Presentation: Liz Neeley, Nebraska Bar Association, Project Director Minority Justice Implementation Committee

Liz Neeley is the Project Director for the Minority Justice Implementation Committee. The Committee is a joint effort of the Nebraska State Bar Association and the Nebraska Supreme Court. The Committee was appointed by the Supreme Court in May of 2003 in response to the task force's two-year investigation of racial and ethnic bias and discrimination in Nebraska's justice system.

The mission of the Committee is to achieve four primary aims: address racial disparities in both the juvenile and adult justice system, ensure equal access to justice, increase the diversity of Nebraska's judicial workforce and increase the diversity of Nebraska's legal profession.

Liz provided a booklet briefly summarizing the Committee's progress in 2005 and reported the Committee hopes that continual media coverage and community outreach will bring broad public exposure to these important issues.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

b. DMC: Report on DMC initiatives

McDowell stated discussion was held at the meeting that morning on how to best leverage limited financial resources to make a significant impact on DMC issues. Title V priorities were discussed as applications will be available in February. McDowell stated the Title V dollars have been reduced to \$56,250.

c. Grant Review

Piccolo announced there are two positions open on the Grant Review Committee if anyone would be interested. The first round of grants are due January 12th.

Miles-Steffens stated the staff/grant review for Juvenile Services and Title II will be held on February 21st, 22nd & 23rd.

d. Youth

Miles-Steffens reported the youth committee is still trying to get together. She said Andee Hardesty has agreed to help facilitate for the committee.

e. Systems Committee (OJS/Probation)

Hawekotte reported that a meeting has not been set up yet. She said the Chinn study the Unicameral gave \$75,000 to update will be ready by the end of January.

a. Executive

McBride reported they have had a couple conference calls in preparation for the Coalition meeting and discussed budget items, future of state JABG funds and how to utilize those. McBride reported that a time to present the annual report to the governor is set for December 15th at 3:30.

The group agreed to divert to item VIII on the agenda.

VIII. Sub-grantee Presentation: Stefanie Ortiz-Cidlik, Homestead Girl Scout Council, Lincoln

Stefanie is the director of the Girl Scout Homestead Council. She provided a handout which outlined the program. She said the mission of Girl Scouting is to build courage, confidence, and character in the girls. She gave an overview of the after-school program and said four middle schools participate in the program: Dawes, Goodrich, Lefler, and Park. There are currently 72 girls enrolled in the program and they meet once a week to plan activities and make arrangements for speakers or possible field trips for future meetings.

Stefanie gave a brief overview of the Council sponsored activities the kids can participate in, such as girls night out, events and camps, and cookie sales. She said in the future they would like to expand into more of the Lincoln schools and eventually into the rural communities.

VII. Discussion of County Aid Second Draft Rule and Regulation

Miles-Steffens gave a brief overview of the 2nd draft Rule and Regulation, which was provided in the mail-out. She said the proposal would be that counties submit a letter of intent to the Crime Commission by a specific date signed by the county board chair. Once all the letters are in they could then determine how to allocate the 1.4 million dollars among those counties. The floor was then opened for discussion how to allocate the funds to those counties without having to send money back to the Feds.

Motion

A motion was made by Behm and seconded by Johns to move the Second Draft forward. (Motion carried unanimously.)

McDowell stepped out.

XIV. Approve Payment of Lunch

Motion

A motion was made by Hawekotte and seconded by Montgomery to approve funds to provide lunch. *Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benjamin, Connolly, Hawekotte, Hoffmaster, Johns, Menzel, Montgomery, Piccolo, Terry, Turnbull, and Watson. Gendler abstained.* (Motion carried.)

The meeting broke briefly to distribute lunch.

McDowell returned to the meeting.

IX. Recognition of out going members

McBride announced two of the coalition members, Jerry Watson and Mark Montgomery, would not be staying on the coalition and recognized them for their years of service. Jerry and Mark thanked the coalition for the opportunity to serve on the committee and said it has been a great learning experience and it was great to work with all of the other coalition members.

Kim Hawekotte announced she would also be leaving the coalition. She has accepted a position with Douglas County Attorney's Office.

X. Elections

McBride announced he would be removing himself from the election of chair, leaving Chris Connolly as the one candidate on the ballot. Miles-Steffens tallied the votes and the new 2007 chair will be Chris Connolly and vice-chair will be Ron Johns.

XI. Discussion of proposals for JABG state retained funds

Miles-Steffens provided a hand-out that outlined the history of the state JABG dollars. She said on December 5th, Mike Overton, Ellen Brokofsky, Tom McBride, Kim Hawekotte, and herself met to discuss the future of the JABG state retained funds of \$177,421. The funds are currently being used towards information sharing projects, but minimal funds from the 06 dollars would be needed for the information sharing projects. It is recommended that the \$177,421 be dedicated

to maintaining the school intervention worker sites in North Platte, Lexington, Grand Island, Columbus, and Norfolk for Probation and OJS youth.

Motion

A motion was made by Connolly and seconded by Menzel to approve the JABG state plan proposal. (Motion carried unanimously.)

Watson left the meeting 12:25

Hoffmaster left the meeting 12:25

XII. Report on Federal Advisory Committee

McBride stated he served on the Annual report committee and said the report was well done and will be available in the near future.

XIII. Disseminate Annual Report to Governor

McBride reported a committee will meet with the Governor to deliver the report.

Montgomery left the meeting 12:30.

XV. Discuss NCJJ budget

Miles-Steffens made the committee aware of the FY 06 funds remaining and FY 07 upcoming funds. She said the Executive Committee would meet and determine proposals for spending the funds.

XVI. Public Comment

None

XVII. New Business/Future Agenda Items

Miles-Steffens announced the NJJA planning committee had met to plan their spring conference. In the past the Coalition has supported NJJA with a \$2,500 dollar stipend to bring in speakers for the conference, and Miles-Steffens asked the committee to consider doing so again.

Motion

A motion was made by Menzel and seconded by Hawekotte to approve \$2,500 to support speakers for the NJJA conference. *Voting in favor of the motion: Behm, Benjamin, Connolly, Gendler, Hawekotte, Johns, McDowell, Menzel, Piccolo, Terry, and Turnbull.* (Motion carried.)

Miles-Steffens reported the Child Welfare League of America national conference is February 26th – 28th in Washington, DC.

Miles-Steffens announced that this would be her last meeting with the Crime Commission. She has accepted a new position with Probation.

McBride thanked Monica for all her hard work. McBride stated he has enjoyed working with everyone on the Coalition and working closely with Judge Gendler.

XVIII. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Vensky
Staff Support